

Restoration - Santa Lucia RD (FINAL)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Version # _____

APP # 700417

A. List of Restoration Activities

The Santa Lucia Ranger District will restore areas in the Pozo/ La Panza and Rockfront OHV riding areas that have been exposed to illegal OHV use. This project will enhance the recovery of areas that have been impacted by OHV traffic as well as conducting educational efforts to restore resource damage. Restoration efforts will be performed to block off unauthorized OHV trails along designated roads and trails. This will be accomplished by installing physical fencing barriers and restoration signs in areas of resource damage. The installation of signs and barriers, construction of water bars, and GIS tracking will be used to monitor and track potential trespass so it may be remedied before use and damage increases. Monitoring in restoration areas will be conducted by law enforcement officers, forest protection officers, recreation technicians, and fire prevention technicians.

Installation of barriers will take place along 3,000 feet of designated trail systems and roads. The use of native brush and shrubs will be utilized in areas where illegal trails are prevalent. Volunteer dozer operators will use mechanical equipment to rip areas of OHV trespass so re-vegetation may occur on compacted soils and areas of surface run off.

B. Describe how the proposed Project relates to OHV Recreation and how OHV Recreation caused the damage:

The Pozo/ La Panza OHV area is one of the most highly used trail systems on the district. The areas of proposed restoration work are immediately adjacent to designated OHV trails and roads. Restoring areas of trespass along these areas will prevent OHV riders from using illegal trails that are not maintained to standard which could potentially lead to dangerous conditions. Unauthorized trails caused by OHV trespass pose a safety hazard to themselves and to sensitive plant, water, cultural, and wildlife communities nearby. Continued monitoring of restoration area will prevent negative impacts to sensitive habitats and cultural sites. Preventing trespass in these areas will protect hikers, horseback riders, and bicyclists from using these unauthorized trails as well.

In the second highly used OHV recreation area, Rockfront offers a staging area to the public for proper parking of vehicles and trailers. A gate closure of the Rockfront OHV riding area during wet weather is in place for safety reasons and to protect resources from damage. Vehicles are riding around the gates and cutting fencing along private property to access the closed riding area in the forest, causing major resource damage.

C. Describe the size of the specific Project Area(s) in acres and/or miles

The activities in this project will provide for the restoration, protection, and monitoring of 3,000 feet of unauthorized OHV routes, on approximately 22 sections along the Rockfront and Pozo/ La Panza OHV trail systems and designated forest roads. Approximately 13 acres of trespass will be eliminated in the Pozo/ La Panza, Rockfront and Huasna areas.

D. Monitoring and Methodology

Barriers and signs will assist with the successful monitoring of the restoration project. Installation of fencing materials will be used to protect areas of trespass. Once unauthorized trails are identified and trespass has stopped, temporary fencing and signs are removed and reused. Volunteers, Law Enforcement Officers, Recreation Technicians, Forest Protection Officers, and Fire Prevention Technicians will continue to monitor the use of unauthorized trails at least twice a week. For accurate record keeping and reporting, photos are taken on a regular basis as soon as severe trespass is identified. GIS monitoring is used to locate areas that require resource restoration activity. This project will provide the staff and materials necessary to provide additional site specific monitoring to ensure the success of past restoration projects.

E. List of Reports

See Attached NEPA Document. Decision Memo includes the purpose and need and environmental analysis.

F. Goals, Objectives and Methodology / Peer Reviews

See Attached NEPA document.

G. Plan for Protection of Restored Area

Critical habitat degraded by OHV trespass trails will be protected by barriers along designated OHV routes and road systems. Barriers and signs will be installed near this project to notify the public of restoration efforts taking place and what they can do to protect these areas. Natural brush and down limbs will be used to disguise illegal trails for effective restoring of soils.

Patrolling of restoration areas will take place weekly as Pozo/ La Panza and Rockfront are highly used OHV riding areas. Forest Patrol Officers will be used to cover all OHV recreation areas, including the proposed restoration sites. Additional staff will be needed to patrol on weekends and holidays to provide greater presence during peak times of use, which is why we are requesting funds for the Law Enforcement grant. Law Enforcement officers will cover these areas as part of their patrol routes as well.

Additional Documentation

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1. Project-Specific Maps

Attachments:

[Pozo Map](#)

[Rockfront Map](#)

[Huasna Map](#)

[GPS Coordinates](#)

2. Project-Specific Photos

Attachments:

[Before Photos](#)

Project Cost Estimate

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:		Version # _____	APP # _____
APPLICANT NAME :	USFS - Los Padres National Forest		
PROJECT TITLE :	Restoration - Santa Lucia RD (FINAL)	PROJECT NUMBER (Division use only) :	G09-02-09-R01
PROJECT TYPE :	<input type="checkbox"/> Acquisition <input type="checkbox"/> Development <input type="checkbox"/> Education & Safety <input type="checkbox"/> Ground Operations <input type="checkbox"/> Law Enforcement <input type="checkbox"/> Planning <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restoration		
PROJECT DESCRIPTION :	<p>The Santa Lucia Ranger District will restore areas in the Pozo/ La Panza and Rockfront OHV riding areas that have been exposed to illegal OHV use. This project will enhance the recovery of areas that have been impacted by OHV traffic as well as conducting educational efforts to restore resource damage. Restoration efforts will be performed to block off unauthorized OHV trails along designated roads and trails. This will be accomplished by installing physical fencing barriers and restoration signs in areas of resource damage. The installation of signs and barriers, construction of water bars, and GIS tracking will be used to monitor and track potential trespass so it may be remedied before use and damage increases. Monitoring in restoration areas will be conducted by law enforcement officers, forest protection officers, recreation technicians, and fire prevention technicians.</p> <p>Installation of barriers will take place along 3,000 feet of designated trail systems and roads. The use of native brush and shrubs will be utilized in areas where illegal trails are prevalent. Volunteer dozer operators will use mechanical equipment to rip areas of OHV trespass so re-vegetation may occur on compacted soils and areas of surface run off.</p>		

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
DIRECT EXPENSES							
Program Expenses							
1	Staff						
	Other-Program Manager Notes : Program Mgr support - includes supervision of OHV specialists in implementation of overall project etc.	1.000	10000.000	YR	0.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
	Other-Recreation Specialist Notes : SLRD Rec Specialists - includes staff funding (i.e. ohv/rec/trails specialists) for facility and trail ops/maint tasks, coordination of partners/volunteers to complete the same tasks.	1.000	30000.000	YR	30,000.00	0.00	30,000.00
	Other-Specialists	1.000	5000.000	YR	5,000.00	0.00	5,000.00

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2009/2010
Agency: USFS - Los Padres National Forest
Application: Restoration - Santa Lucia RD (FINAL)

3/1/2010

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
	Notes : Specialist Support - includes specialist salary (i.e. botanist, biologist, archeologist, geologist, hydrologist, soil scientist) to assist in clearances needed to implement rehab of off route impacts, and general trail and facility maintenance issues.						
	Other-Forest Protection Officer Notes : FPO Presence: In areas of restoration occurs on a weekly basis. At least three FPOs are assigned to patrol areas where restoration is taking place in OHV areas.	1.000	15000.000	YR	0.00	15,000.00	15,000.00
	Other-OHV Technician	1.000	4000.000	YR	0.00	4,000.00	4,000.00
	Other-SLRD Volunteers Notes : Volunteer partners- 200 hours	200.000	20.000	HRS	0.00	4,000.00	4,000.00
	Other-SLRD - Volunteer Dozer Operator Notes : Higher skilled dozer/tractor operator volunteers will be calculated as similar agency salaried equipment operator.	40.000	30.750	HRS	0.00	1,230.00	1,230.00
	Other-Volunteer Monitor	50.000	20.000	HRS	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
	Total for Staff				35,000.00	35,230.00	70,230.00
2	Contracts						
3	Materials / Supplies						
	Other-Fencing and barrier materials	1.000	5000.000	YR	5,000.00	0.00	5,000.00
	Signs Notes : Signs - includes wet weather, enforcement, and informational signs for restoration areas.	1.000	2500.000	YR	2,500.00	0.00	2,500.00
	Other-Steel Posts	1.000	2000.000	YR	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00
	Other-Welder Notes : Welder will be used to repair metal pipe fencing that is used to protect sensitive habitats from OHV trespass in OHV recreation areas.	1.000	1000.000	EA	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2009/2010
Agency: USFS - Los Padres National Forest
Application: Restoration - Santa Lucia RD (FINAL)

3/1/2010

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
	Other-Cement	1.000	500.000	YR	0.00	500.00	500.00
	Total for Materials / Supplies				10,500.00	500.00	11,000.00
4	Equipment Use Expenses						
	Other-Equipment Use (Use Rates) Notes : Forest Service Vehicle Support- Includes gasoline, oil, tires, washing, mechanical inspections and repairs related to restoration work.	1.000	3000.000	YR	0.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
5	Equipment Purchases						
6	Others						
7	Indirect Costs						
	Indirect Costs-Administrative Costs Notes : Administrative tasks not enumerated elsewhere in support of restoration activities on the District.	1.000	4500.000	YR	0.00	4,500.00	4,500.00
Total Program Expenses					45,500.00	43,230.00	88,730.00
TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES					45,500.00	43,230.00	88,730.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES					45,500.00	43,230.00	88,730.00

Project Cost Summary for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2009/2010
Agency: USFS - Los Padres National Forest
Application: Restoration - Santa Lucia RD (FINAL)

3/1/2010

	Line Item	Grant Request	Match	Total	Narrative
DIRECT EXPENSES					
Program Expenses					
1	Staff	35,000.00	35,230.00	70,230.00	
2	Contracts	0.00	0.00	0.00	
3	Materials / Supplies	10,500.00	500.00	11,000.00	
4	Equipment Use Expenses	0.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	
5	Equipment Purchases	0.00	0.00	0.00	
6	Others	0.00	0.00	0.00	
7	Indirect Costs	0.00	4,500.00	4,500.00	
Total Program Expenses		45,500.00	43,230.00	88,730.00	
TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES		45,500.00	43,230.00	88,730.00	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		45,500.00	43,230.00	88,730.00	

Environmental Review Data Sheet (ERDS)

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ITEM 1 and ITEM 2

ITEM 1

- a. ITEM 1 - Has a CEQA Notice of Determination (NOD) been filed for the Project? ☐ Yes ☒ No
(Please select Yes or No)

ITEM 2

- b. Does the proposed Project include a request for funding for CEQA and/or NEPA document preparation prior to implementing the remaining Project Deliverables (i.e., is it a two-phased Project pursuant to Section 4970.06.1(b)) (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

ITEM 3 - Project under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378

- c. ITEM 3 - Are the proposed activities a "Project" under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378? ☒ Yes ☐ No
(Please select Yes or No)
- d. The Application is requesting funds solely for personnel and support to enforce OHV laws and ensure public safety. These activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No
- e. Other. Explain why proposed activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. DO NOT complete ITEMS 4 – 10

ITEM 4 - Impact of this Project on Wetlands

This project sites will not impact wetlands or navigable waters because it is not located near wetlands or navigable water. There are sensitive wildlife and plant habitats located within the areas of trespass that are being proposed to protect. These sensitive habitats are protected from impacts of OHV activities through management. Restoration activities are designed to protect sensitive habitats and improve these resources. The proposed restoration project is designed to avoid adverse effects on species and to protect the recently restored habitat for them.

ITEM 5 - Cumulative Impacts of this Project

The Final Environmental Impact Statement, Land Management and Resource Management Plan, Los Padres National Forest and the subsequent amendments analyzed the immediate and cumulative impacts of the OHV system on the District. The closure of the undesignated trails will not impact other trails in the area and there are no known associated negative cumulative effects. This project does not impact the number of existing system trails and loops in the area. User groups will be concentrated to existing system trails and as a result, this will have a positive effect on the critical habitat for the threatened plant, Camatta Canyon amole and soil conditions.

The Santa Lucia Ranger District monitoring protocols act as an early warning for possible negative effects on soils, heritage resources, and wildlife/vegetation habitat. The results of monitoring enable the interdisciplinary team to design and schedule restoration projects specific to the OHV system in a timely manner. This results in project work being scheduled and performed so that no significant negative cumulative effects will occur. In the future, new trails may be proposed for construction but not because the illegal trails will be restored. If new trails are built, there will be no significant environmental effects.

ITEM 6 - Soil Impacts

As a result of restoring the network of illegal OHV trails in the Pozo/La Panza OHV area, the project is designed to eliminate negative effects to soils. All restoration activities will follow BMPs found in "Water Quality Management for Forest System Lands in California, Best Management Practices" (i.e. no side casting of excess material) to protect soils and minimize risk of erosion. Signing, physical barriers, and enforcement all encourage users to stay on the designated trails and reduce or eliminate the possibility of impacts to adjacent soil and vegetation resources.

ITEM 7 - Damage to Scenic Resources

There will not be any damage to scenic resources since there is not a designated state scenic highway within or adjacent to the project areas.

ITEM 8 - Hazardous Materials

Is the proposed Project Area located on a site included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the California Government Code (hazardous materials)? (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

If YES, describe the location of the hazard relative to the Project site, the level of hazard and the measures to be taken to minimize or avoid the hazards.

ITEM 9 - Potential for Adverse Impacts to Historical or Cultural Resources

Would the proposed Project have potential for any substantial adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources? (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

Discuss the potential for the proposed Project to have any substantial adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources.

Historic and cultural sites will be protected from OHV trespass through mitigations from barriers and fencing. The district archeologist supports efforts in eliminating areas vulnerable to trespass near these historic sites. There is no potential for substantial adverse impacts on any historic or cultural sites with restoration efforts in place.

ITEM 10 - Indirect Significant Impacts

The restoration activities described in this project will focus on restoring natural habitats that will enhance the OHV recreation experience. Restoration activities will have little to no impact on OHV users as unauthorized OHV trails will be blocked off. The project is designed to prevent off route impacts by installing barriers to prevent further creation of illegal routes. It will encourage riders to stay on designated trail routes and park along designated staging areas. No new closures or restrictions will take place based on this project. Increased personnel monitoring and patrolling will successfully reduce the amount of user created trails in and around the restoration project.

CEQA/NEPA Attachment

Attachments:

[Decision Memo- installing barriers and signs](#)

Evaluation Criteria

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1. Project Cost Estimate - Q 1. (Auto populates from Cost Estimate)

1. As calculated on the Project Cost Estimate, the percentage of the Project costs covered by the Applicant is: 3

(Note: This field will auto-populate once the Cost Estimate and Evaluation Criteria are Validated.) (Please select one from list)

- ☐ 76% or more (10 points)
☐ 51% - 75% (5 points)
☒ 26% - 50% (3 points)
☐ 25% (Match minimum) (No points)

2. Natural and Cultural Resources - Q 2.

2. Natural and Cultural Resources - Failure to fund the Project will result in adverse impacts to: 11

(Check all that apply) (Please select applicable values)

- ☐ Domestic water supply (4 points)
☐ Archeological and historical resources identified in the California Register of Historical Resources or the Federal Register of Historic Places (3 points)
☒ Stream or other watercourse (3 points)
☒ Soils - Site actively eroding (2 points)
☒ Sensitive areas (e.g., wilderness, riparian, wetlands, ACEC) (2 point each, up to a maximum of 6) Enter number of sensitive habitats [2]
☒ Threatened and Endangered (T&E) listed species (2 point each, up to a maximum of 6) Enter number of T&E species [1]
☐ Other special-status species- Number of special-status species (1 point each, up to a maximum of 3) Enter number of special-status species

Describe the type and severity of impacts that might occur relative to the checked item(s):

Unauthorized OHV trails are causing soils to actively eroding in sensitive habitat areas. Some of these trails cross and/or are nearby riparian areas as well as the Camatta Canyon amole habitat, which is a federally listed threatened species. This is causing unnatural sedimentation and eroding of hillsides. By creating barriers, OHV users will be directed to use authorized OHV trails. Failure to fund this project would result in adverse impacts to these sensitive areas that are vital to the forest.

3. Reason for Project - Q 3.

3. Reason for the Project 4

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☐ Protect special-status species or cultural site (4 points)
☒ Restore natural resource system damaged by OHV activity (4 points)
☐ OHV activity in a closed area (3 points)
☐ Alternative measures attempted, but failed (2 points)
☐ Management decision (1 point)
☐ Scientific and cultural studies (1 point)
☐ Planning efforts associated with Restoration (1 point)

Reference Document

Please see attached Decision Memo.

4. Measures to Ensure Success - Q 4.

4. Measures to ensure success –The Project makes use of the following elements to ensure successful implementation 12

(Check all that apply) Scoring: 2 points each (Please select applicable values)

- ☒ Site monitoring to prevent additional damage
- ☒ Construction of barriers and other traffic control devices
- ☒ Use of native plants and materials
- ☒ Incorporation of universally recognized 'Best Management Practices'
- ☒ Educational signage
- ☒ Identification of alternate OHV routes to ensure that OHV activities will not reoccur in restored area

Explain each item checked above:

Monitoring of the restoration project will include routine patrolling by field personnel, Law Enforcement Officers and volunteers. Smooth wire fencing, natural brush and pipe fencing will serve as a barrier along illegal trails that have been created by OHV trespass as well as the installation of carsonite signs to divert OHVs from using these illegal trails. Best Management Practices will be incorporated into this project as listed on page 37 and 38 of the Water Quality Management for Forest System Lands in California handbook, 2000. Brush and down limbs will be used to block off sections of unauthorized trails to prevent riders from using those trails. Educational signs will be posted to inform the public about the restoration project and the efforts to protect sensitive areas. A map of authorized OHV trails to ride is posted along Navajo Road at Turkey Flat Staging Area to ensure that riders use designated trails.

5. Publicly Reviewed Plan - Q 5.

5. Is there a publicly reviewed and adopted plan (e.g., wilderness designation, land management plans, route designation decisions) that supports the need for the Restoration Project? 5

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☐ No (No points) ☒ Yes (5 points)

Identify plan

The restoration project is in compliance with the goals and objectives of the Los Padres National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan and all the applicable laws, regulations, and policies (page 71). This project also complies with the district's designated OHV route system. All NEPA analysis and reporting has been completed.

6. Primary Funding Source - Q 6.

6. Primary funding source for future operational costs associated with the Project will be: 3

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☐ Applicant's operational budget (5 points)
- ☒ Volunteer support and/or donations (3 points)
- ☐ Other Grant funding (2 points)
- ☐ OHV Trust Funds (No points)

If 'Operational budget' is checked, list reference document(s):

7. Public Input - Q 7.

7. The Project was developed with public input employing the following 2

(Check all that apply) Scoring: 1 point each, up to a maximum of 2 points (Please select applicable values)

- ☐ Publicly noticed meeting(s) with the general public to discuss Project (1 point)
- ☒ Conference call(s) with interested parties (1 point)
- ☒ Meeting(s) with stakeholders (1 point)

Explain each statement that was checked

This project has been discussed with the public at quarterly OHV Leadership meetings at the Supervisor's Office in Goleta, CA. Local OHV volunteer groups include Central Coast Motorcycle Association and California Trail Users Coalition. Frequent phone calls to volunteers have been made to discuss proposed restoration projects for this year.

8. Utilization of Partnerships - Q 8.

8. The Project will utilize partnerships to successfully accomplish the Project. The number of partner organizations that will participate in the Project are 2

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☐ 4 or more (4 points)
- ☒ 2 to 3 (2 points)
- ☐ 1 (1 point)
- ☐ None (No points)

List partner organization(s):

Central Coast Motorcycle Association, Cal Poly Penguins, and Santa Maria 4x4 Jeep Club.

9. Scientific and Cultural Studies - Q 9.

9. Scientific and cultural studies will

(Check all that apply) (Please select applicable values)

- ☐ Determine appropriate Restoration techniques (2 points)
- ☐ Examine potential effects of OHV Recreation on natural or cultural resources (2 points)
- ☐ Examine methods to ensure success of Restoration efforts (1 point)
- ☐ Lead to direct management action (1 point)

Explain each item checked above

10. Underlying Problem - Q 10.

10. The underlying problem that resulted in the need for the Restoration Project has been effectively addressed and resolved 3

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☐ No (No points)
- ☒ Yes (3 points)

Explain 'Yes' answer

The underlying problem that results in the need for restoration work is the continued use of user created trails. This project will provide for the continued maintenance and protection of these sites in order to prevent additional impacts and allow the restoration areas to revegetate to a natural state. The Forest Service has examined effective ways to protect resources and prevent OHV users from riding on unauthorized trails by fencing them off. Many unauthorized trails continue to be used when there are no efforts to block them. Restoring areas of OHV trespass will be resolved by installing barriers to prevent illegal OHV riding and removing it once signs of soil rehabilitation have taken place.

11. Size of sensitive habitats - Q 11.

11. Size of sensitive habitats (e.g., wilderness, riparian, wetlands, ACEC) within the Project Area which will be restored 5

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☒ Greater than 10 acres (5 points)
- ☐ 1 – 10 acres (3 points)
- ☐ Less than 1 acre (1 points)
- ☐ No sensitive habitat within Project Area (No points)